the rivers and streams in the High Range and further sums had since been expended. A certain measure of success had been achieved, but, for two years now, they had been without any legal protection and any one could capture the results of their efforts with impunity. A considerable revenue to Government from the fees to be levied for licenses under the Regulation was also being lost. A good deal of money had been spent and more would be readily spent in the interests of sport and the preservation and protection of game in the country. In conclusion, he trusted that it would be found possible and expedient to publish the necessary rules to make the Regulation effective at a very early date.

Dewan's reply.—The Head Sirkar Vakil will be asked to forward his opinion soon and steps taken to issue the rules as early as possible.

(3) SALT.

18. Development of the manufacture of local salt.

Mr. N. Raman Pillai (Member, Karthigapalli Taluk) said that, of the total quantity of over 10 lakhs of maunds of salt consumed in the State during 1092, the quantity of home salt was only 4½ lakhs of maunds and that the balance was foreign salt imported into the State. The import of foreign salt was disadvantageous both to the Government and the people. There were many lands in South Travancore and in the taluks of Karunagapalli and Karthigapalli where salt could be manufactured on an extensive scale. Salt was required not only as an article of food, but also for curing fish and for the preparation of artificial manure. It was, therefore, necessary that salt should be given to the people at the cheapest rate, and that could be done by the manufacture of local salt on a larger scale. During 1092, a quantity of nearly 6 lakhs of maunds of salt was manufactured on an area of 301 acres of lands. An additional area of not less than 500 acres could be converted into salt *allams* in South Travancore and in Puthupalli in the Karunagapalli taluk, and Muthukulam and Keerikad in the Karthigapalli taluk. If salt was manufactured in the above areas also, the total quantity of home salt would be more than what was required for local consumption. The Member, therefore, prayed that—

(1) the number of existing salt *allams* should be increased ; and

(2) the people should be encouraged to start salt *allams* and to manufacture local salt on an extensive scale under the supervision of Government.

Mr. P. Ponniah Nadar (Member, Nominated) said that the quantity of salt produced in the State was insufficient to meet the requirements of the country. He understood that the Government realised the situation and that the Excise Commissioner and the Chief Engineer were to find out suitable localities for the extension of salt manufacture. He was of opinion that no time should be lost in carrying out the idea.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The Excise Commissioner is of opinion that the soil of the places referred to in the Karunagapalli and Karthigapalli taluks is not good for the manufacture of salt.

(4) EXCISE, TRADE AND CUSTOMS.

19. Unlicensed Toddy Shops.

Mr. J. R. Vincent (Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association) requested that Government should endeavour to suppress unlicensed toddy shops and make a change in the policy of issuing licenses for toddy and arrack shops in Planting Districts or in the vicinity of Estates. The number of unlicensed shops was considerably on the increase; and, judging by the quantity of liquor obtained by Estate coolies, it was evident that Government were losing a large amount of revenue each year. That itself was serious, but what mostly affected the planters was the fact that, owing to the practically unrestricted sale of liquor, their coolies were demoralised, that brawls occurred in which knives were freely used and that the coolies were greatly impoverished. He would urge the necessity of stricter supervision, the removal of the shops, and the award of adequate punishment to the persons running them. His Association was always ready to furnish information

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leading to the location of the shops and the detection of the offenders. The Member said that the Government might follow the licensing policy recently enunciated by the Madras Government and that was, (1) to open no liquor shops in places with a population of less than 2,500 inhabitants excluding Estate labour, (2) whenever application was made for an outlying shop, to order that it should be made through the local Planters' Association and (3) to abolish all special licenses or concessions for the sale of liquor on market or festival days, and to restrict or prohibit sales on those occasions under regular licenses at the towns.

The Member, in conclusion, assured the Government that the local Planting Associations had the welfare of their Districts and inhabitants at heart and could be trusted not to refuse to recommend to Government the granting of licenses where necessary and they felt that, to the benefit of the cooly population and in the interests of the department, Government could decrease the illicit traffic and increase the revenue, with the co-operation of their Associations. They were prepared to give their fullest support to any policy of Government tending to remove the difficulties complained of and to regulate the traffic in the Planting Districts.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's suggestions will be forwarded to the Excise Commissioner for report.

20. Need for amending the Tobacco Rules dated 5th July 1913.

Mr. Nainan Aippu (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) explained the procedure followed in weighing tobacco for realising *melabhom* and submitted that the second weighment in the bankshall was practically useless. There would be no grievance if *melabhom* was charged on the weight actually found at the time of paying the same. But that was not the case. The Member, therefore, prayed that sections 21 and 28 of the Tobacco Rules dated 5th July 1913 be amended, so that the duty due on bales of tobacco be always levied on the weight actually found at the time of paying the *melabhom*.

Under clause xiii of Section 33 of the Rules, Coimbatore and Tinnevelly tobacco bonded in a bankshall should pay godown rent at the rate of one and a half annas per bale for one official Malayalam month or any fraction thereof. The above provision did not bring in any advantage to the merchants as was intended by the Government. The Member, therefore, suggested that, as before, a rent of two annas might be charged on each bale of Coimbatore and Tinnevelly tobacco bonded in a bankshall.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

21. Suggestions for the development of trade.

Mr. K. Koshi (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) said that, in Travancore, trade was only in its infancy and it was regrettable that the Government were not taking active steps for promoting the welfare of the trader. As it was highly necessary that the condition of trade should be improved substantially, with a view to the well-being of the traders in particular and of the State in general, the Member made the following proposals for the early and sympathetic consideration of Government:—

(1) A State Bank should be established with a view to help the commercial population of the State.

(2) A Chamber of Commerce calculated to promote the interests of trade should also be started on the lines of the one established in Mysore.

(3) In view to secure the maximum prices for the commodities exported from the State, the Government should appoint commercial representatives in such big centres as London, Bombay, &c., and recover the expenses on that account by levying a small commission from the merchants who carried on trade with those centres.

(4) The facilities for trade in the Alleppey Port should be enhanced in the following ways:—

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